

participated until the Federal advance at Culpeper. After that came the hard fights at Jack's Shop and the second and third Brandy Station, resulting in a highly complimentary order from General Stuart to Colonel Baker for the part taken in these actions and leading to Colonel Baker's promotion; but in consequence of a wound he was assigned to special duty. This also caused the promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Gordon to Brigadier-General, who was put in charge of a North Carolina brigade composed of the Ninth (First Cav.), Nineteenth (Second Cav.) and Fifty-ninth (Fourth Cav.) Regiments. Captains Thomas Ruffin and W. H. Cheek had succeeded to the respective positions of Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel of the Ninth, and the former was now in command.

On the 8th of October began the flank movement of General Lee on Meade, known as the Bristoe campaign, when occurred two of the most striking cavalry events of the war, and in both of which the First North Carolina Cavalry led the charge with drawn sabres in a most heroic manner:

First. On the 13th Stuart got caught in a very tight place, under the following circumstances: In the very rapid marches of Meade on several converging roads, with Stuart in hot pursuit, the latter, at night-fall, found himself completely hemmed in between two parallel corps of the Federal army. Escape seemed absolutely impossible, and as his command had, as yet, been unobserved, he resolved on the policy of a painful silence to await what the morning would bring forth. At early dawn both of the Federal columns were put in motion and concealment was no longer possible; so, as a last desperate resort, he ran his horse artillery up an elevated point and opened upon the camp at Auburn Mill, as furnishing the best point of escape, and hoping to throw the Yankees into confusion and panic, but the latter were all ready for action, and in an instant three heavy lines of infantry skirmishers advanced upon his guns and threatened his whole command with capture. Stuart ordered Gordon* to charge, and Gordon called for the First North Carolina Cavalry. Colonel Ruffin led the charge, but at the